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THE
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OF CALGARY

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FACULTY OF SOCIAL SCIENCES
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY

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1981-02-20

Dear Dr. Lederberg:

I wonder if I might trouble you for a favour? I'm applying for a position at the University of Western Ontario--where I worked previously for two years. They've asked me to apply back there for a tenure stream job that is ear-marked for theory and the sociology of science. I'm quite happy where I am, though my teaching is mostly criminal justice systems and social psychology. I've had one crack at the senior seminar in the sociology of knowledge. However, at UWO there would be more support for my research in the sociology of science. This is the major attraction of the invitation. I'm writing to you because you have a great deal of expertise in the history of genetics, and as well, you've seen some of my research on this subject. While I have a great deal of support from sociologists of science, I need to establish some kind of external acknowledgment. The problem I'm facing is that while most people at UWO find my work interesting, the faculty there is dominated by demographers who can't really evaluate the relevance and soundness of my work. They need someone to tell them that I know what I'm doing.

If you can help out by writing a short letter on my behalf indicating that you've read my work on Mendel and find it worthwhile, I would greatly appreciate this. If this is imposing too much on you, or if you wouldn't feel comfortable doing this, this will be understandable. I don't want to put you in an awkward position.

Dr. Carl Grindstaff is the Chair of the Selection Committee at the Department of Sociology, University of Western Ontario, London, Ontario, Canada. His committee screens candidates and the Department votes as a whole following the interview. Since I was there for two years, they probably won't require an interview. This makes the letters all that more relevant.

My best,

Jus